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February 2, 2018

VIA EMAIL AND FOR FILING IN FCC DOCKET 17-83

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Request for Meeting to Discuss Recommendations of the Broadband Deployment
Advisory Committee

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am writing on behalf of the current members of the state, local, and Tribal members (the "Membership") of the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee ("IAC"). As you know, the Membership has followed the work of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee ("BDAC") with great interest. We were very appreciate that at our request, Andy Huckaba, the IAC's Vice-Chair, was appointed to the BDAC. Mr. Huckaba has been very active in the BDAC and represented us well.

Nonetheless, even with Mr. Huckaba's participation, the number of industry voices on the BDAC grossly outnumbers the number of voices from state and local government. We therefore ask for a meeting with you, the other Commissioners, and appropriate staff to discuss the BDAC Recommendations. The recommendations released thus far propose actions that would have significant impacts on state, local, and Tribal authority and activity around broadband deployment, such as the recommendations for a proposed Model Code for States and for Removing State and Local Regulatory Barriers.

As individual members have expressed to you and your staff repeatedly since our first meeting, the charge of the BDAC and the framing of the issues before it raise concerns that state and local governments are seen as impediments, rather than partners, in facilitating broadband deployment. Given our regulatory charge, a meeting with the Membership is necessary and appropriate to provide our guidance on the BDAC Recommendations:

[The IAC shall] provide guidance to the Commission on issues of importance to state, local and tribal governments, as well as to the Commission," including "ongoing advice

and information to the Commission on a broad range of telecommunications issues of interest to state, local and tribal governments, including cable and local franchising, public rights-of-way, facilities siting, universal service, broadband access, barriers to competitive entry, and public safety communications, for which the Commission explicitly or inherently shares responsibility or administration with local, county, state or tribal governments.¹

The time is also ripe for such a meeting, as we have respected your request that we refrain from commenting on these issues until the BDAC has issued its recommendations. With Recommendations out, the time has come for the IAC to provide our input; indeed, the Membership feels it is our obligation to do so. I recognize that the Commission has voted to expand the membership of the IAC to double its size. However, since we anticipate that the process of filling those fifteen additional slots will take many months, we ask that you schedule a meeting with the existing Membership as soon as possible, as it seems likely that that these BDAC recommendations and any others that follow may be quickly adopted or implemented, making time of the essence.

Thank you for your time and attention to our request. I am happy to discuss the details of a meeting with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Elin Swanson Katz, Chair
Intergovernmental Advisory Committee

Cc: FCC Commissioners
State & Local Members of IAC

¹ *Intergovernmental Advisory Committee*, FCC website, <https://www.fcc.gov/about-fcc/advisory-committees/general/intergovernmental-advisory-committee> (November 17, 2017).